

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. This amendment amends claims 1-6 and 8-11, cancels claim 7 and adds new claims 12 and 13.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-11 in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth herein below.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification on the basis that the title is not descriptive. Accordingly, applicant has amended the title of the application to read, "NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR DISPLAYING DATED MAP DATA." Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the specification.

Drawings

The Examiner has acknowledged that the drawings filed on November 26, 2001 are acceptable. Accordingly, the applicant does not have to take any further action with respect to the drawings at the present time.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has not acknowledged the applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a). Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge applicant's claim for priority in the next communication.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 26, 2001 has been initialed and considered by the Examiner. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 document has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-11 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,552,989 (Bertrand) in view of U.S. Patent 4,661,811 (Gray et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent 3,731,387 (Slemmons). This rejection of amended claims 1-6 and 8-11 is traversed. Since claim 7 has been canceled, the rejection of claim 7 is moot. The applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1-6, 8-11 and newly added claims 12 and 13 are patentable over the cited prior art.

A. The Bertrand Patent

Bertrand discloses a portable digital map reader which reads digital geographical maps recorded on magnetic or optical data and displays the geographical maps. There

is no disclosure in the Bertand patent of storing map data for a plurality of years.

Moreover, there is no disclosure of editing the map data for different years and then superposing the map data for different years on a display, or displaying the map data for different years in different display areas as claimed by the applicant.

B. The Gray et al. Patent

The Gray et al. patent discloses a video map system in which map frames are stored on a video storage medium such as a video disk. A graphic generator stores overlay information such as the location of telephone lines, and the graphics generator then overlays an image of the telephone line information on the map. The Gray et al. patent does not disclose storing map data for a plurality of years and editing the map data such that map data from different years are superimposed on a display, or displayed in different display areas.

C. The Slemmons Patent

The Slemmons patent discloses an apparatus for plotting stock market data. Applicant respectfully submits that an apparatus for charting stocks is not analogous prior art. At best, the Slemmons patent discloses a device for recording data from different days on a chart. There is no disclosure in Slemmons of either storing or editing map data from a plurality of years.

D. The Hypothetical Combination

The applicant respectfully disagrees that the hypothetical combination of the Bertrand patent in view of the Gray et al. patent and further in view of the Slemmons patent would result in the applicant's claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of the cited references would result in the digital map of Bertrand being superimposed with the telephone data of Gray, which presumably could be updated on a periodic basis with new telephone data as suggested by Slemmons. It is respectfully submitted that this hypothetical combination of references is not the same as the applicant's claimed invention which provides a novel comparative display of map data from different years.

The applicant has discovered that a novel display of map information can be generated by storing map data from a plurality of years and editing the map data before it is displayed. The edited map data from different years is then superimposed and displayed together (claim 1), or the edited map data from the different years is displayed in separate display areas (claim 8). It is respectfully submitted that this novel apparatus and method for edited map data from different years as disclosed and claimed by applicant is not unpatentable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of amended claims 1-6 and amended claims 8-11, and to allow newly added method claims 12 and 13, which correspond substantially to apparatus claims 1 and 8.

The applicant believes that dependent claims 2-6 and 9-11 are allowable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard J. McGrath (Reg. No. 29,195) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680


MKM/RJM/fjl
1163-0369P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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